South Carolina House of Representatives

Legislative Update & Research Reports

Robert J. Sheheen, Speaker of the House

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CONTENTS

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Legislative Update

Legislation Introduced

Aging

Truck registrations (H.2229, Rep. Hearn). Persons over sixty-five years would not have to pay registration or license fees on their truck, if the truck is for personal rather than commercial use.

Children and Families

Divorce (H.2234, Rep. McElveen). This bill alters the definition of "resident" and "residence" in divorce cases to include persons stationed in South Carolina for military duty. The time spent here would count towards the residency requirements of the divorce laws, whether the person intended to make South Carolina his or her permanent home or not.

Election of Family Court judges (H.2303, Rep. Rudnick). This legislation would have Family Court judges elected in non-partisan elections starting in 1988. The judges would run for set districts within the counties.

Education

School assignments (H.2256, Rep. Ferguson). This bill would require that the school assignment of pupils would have to reflect the racial makeup of a school district's school age population.

Environment

Increase littering fines (H.2254, Rep. Boan). A measure that would stiffen the minimum fine that can be imposed for littering. Presently the fine is from $10 to $200; this would up that to $50 to $200.

No permanent bulkheads (H.2265, Rep. Foxworth). After July 1, 1987 no permanent bulkheads or seawalls would be permitted on the Atlantic coast of the state. The only exception would be for seawalls made of sandbags.

Allowing fire to spread (H.2271, Rep. Pearce). This bill would change the penalties which can be imposed for allowing a fire to spread to someone else's property. The penalty now is 20 to 30 days in jail and a fine of between $50 to $100. The proposed changes would set the time in jail at between 5 and 30 days, and a fine between $25 and $200.

Hazardous waste facilities (H.2291, Rep. E.B. McLeod). This bill would require post-closure care of hazardous waste facilities. After the site has been closed and the waste removed, the owner would still be responsible for providing adequate care for 100 years.

Fiscal

Economic forecasts (H.2217, Rep. Carnell). On February 15 of each year the Board of Economic Advisors makes its "final forecast" of economic conditions for the state. After that, monthly "adjustments" are made. This bill would put a limit on those adjustments.

Specifically, the bill first says that the February 15 forecast and later adjustments cannot be more than actual general fund collections from the last calendar year. Second, it puts a separate limit on projections for fiscal year 1988-89: no more than 75% of the "actual average annual growth" for the calendar year just past and the four years prior. For fiscal year 1989-90, 70% of the average annual growth for five years; and for fiscal years 1990-91 and beyond, 60%.

Handicapped persons and registration fees (H.2276, Rep. L. Phillips). No registration fee would be charged for the private vehicles owned by handicapped persons under this bill.

Exempt eyeglasses from sales tax (H.2297, Rep. Rudnick). Prescription eyeglasses would be exempt from the sales tax if this bill is passed.

Government Operations

Bingo on Sunday? Ask the voters (H.2235, Rep. Hendricks). This measure would allow counties to hold a referendum to determine if bingo games can be held on Sundays.

Eminent domain procedure code (H.2241, Rep. Gentry; there's also S.135, Senator Pope.) Takes the various statutes relating to condemnation of private property for public use, standardizes them, and puts them in one place in the state *Code*.

Aid to Subdivisions reporting (H.2264, Rep. Sheheen). Counties and municipalities which receive Aid to Subdivision funds would have to submit an annual report to the state Comptroller General, showing the source of the funds and their expenditures. This information would be compiled and analyzed on a state-wide basis by a joint effort of the ACIR, the USC Bureau of Government Research and Services, and the Statistical Division of the Budget and Control Board. This analysis would be submitted to the General Assembly.

Nicknames on ballots (H.2279, Rep. "Pete" Pearce). This would permit candidates to have their choice of name they use on electoral ballots. They could pick 1) their given name; 2) a derivation of the given name; 3) a nickname, up to fifteen letters, not necessarily connected to their given name.

Police Officers' Retirement System (H.2292, H.2293, Rep. Waldrop). These two measures would provide credit to be counted for members of the S.C. Police Officers' Retirementment System. H.2292 would permit "special annuities or ... additional creditable service" for out-of-state service. H.2293 would allow credit for prior South Carolina service.

Popular election of Insurance Commissioner (H.2301, Rep. Rudnick). This measure, quite similar to H.2141 (Rep. Blackwell), would have the voters choose the Chief Insurance Commissioner every four years in the General Election, starting in 1988.

Public Service Commission hearings (H.2302, Rep. Rudnick). This bill would require the Public Service Commission to hold a public hearing in Columbia before granting any utility rate increase.

Repo man rules: we're coming to take you away (H.2304, Rep. Rudnick). Before an automobile was repossessed, a notice must be sent by first class mail to the owner at least five days before the repossession takes place.

Oath of office, members of the General Assembly (H.2305, Rep. Rudnick). The oath of office to members of the General Assembly would be administered at 11:00 am on the Monday after election day. The oath would be administered by the county clerk of court at the county court house.

Magistrates elected (H.2308, Rep. Rudnick). Starting in 1990 magistrates would be elected in nonpartisan elections. The General Assembly would determine the method of election, the terms of office, and so forth. This measure is a proposed Constitutional Amendment which would have to be submitted to the voters in the next General Election.

Public Service commissioners elected (H.2309, Rep. Rudnick). Members of the Public Service Commission would be elected by the voters, starting in 1988, if this measure is passed. One commissioner would be chosen from each Congressional District. The electoral process would be phased in gradually, starting in 1988.

Amendment by initiative (H.2310, Rep. Rudnick). This bill would allow the state Constitution to be amended by popular initiative. Petitions with the proposed amendment would be circulated and would have to be signed by 8% of the voters eligible to have voted in the last general election. If that happened the amendment would be put on the ballot in the next general election.

Close encounters of the fourth kind--owning property (H.2313, Rep. Rudnick). How much land in South Carolina is owned by aliens? We'd all know if this measure passes. It requires that aliens or their resident agents who own property in this state would have to file a copy of their deed with the Secretary of State.

For property that is currently owned, the copy would have to be filed within 90 days. For property bought after this measure goes into law, there would be 30 days in which to file. Failure to file would be punishable by a fine of $500 per day for each day of non-compliance. ("I claim this territory in the name of Mars.")

Circuit Judges elected (H.2316, Rep. Rudnick). This proposal would amend the state Constitution to have circuit judges elected by the voters. The terms of office would be six years; the manner of election would be determined by the General Assembly. No aliens would be permitted to run for judgeships.

Changing political parties (H.2317, Rep. Rudnick). A person who is elected to office who wishes to change political parties would be governed by provisions of this bill. If the office holder has made a candidacy pledge with his or her political party, then the office must be resigned before party affiliation can be switched.

Health

Dentistry Board reauthorized (H.2209, Rep. Thrailkill). The Dentistry Board would be reauthorized if this bill passes. Just about every member of the House is listed as a co-sponsor, so the Board will probably be reauthorized.

Medicaid beds (H.2212, Rep. Blackwell). According to this bill, present methods of funding Medicaid nursing home beds neither guarantee the beds for Medicaid patients, nor limit the total number of beds and consequent expense for the state. This bill intends to meet both of those needs.

In the appropriation bill the General Assembly would set the number of Medicaid beds which could be contracted for in nursing homes. These beds would be allocated in areas of the state by DHEC, and contracts made with nursing homes.

The bill also would make it illegal for nursing homes to discriminate against Medicaid recipients (as, for example, refusing to admit them, require Medicaid eligibles not to apply for the program, discharge them because they are on Medicaid, or charge them additional fees).

Insurance payments to psychologists (H.2213, Rep. Blackwell). Insurance policies which have mental health care coverage would be required to make payments to physicians or psychologists for such treatment.

Highways, Byways, Airways and Safety

Driver's License changes (H.2231, H.2232, Rep. M.D. Burriss). The first bill would allow a member of the Armed Forces who becomes a resident of South Carolina thirty days to apply for a SC drivers' license. If the person has a valid license from another state, no eye test would be required.

The second bill would cover situations where a member of the military has his or her license expire while out of state on duty. If the person has been out of South Carolina for the thirty days just prior to the license expiring, then he or she has thirty days grace period to renew the license once back in the state.

No earphones while driving (H.2274, Rep. Winstead). This measure would prohibit drivers from wearing earphones in order to listen to radios, tape players, or instructions from aliens. An exception is made for hearing aid earphones.

Lights on when raining (H.2295, Rep. Rudnick). This bill would require that motor vehicle lights are turned on when windshield wipers are in use, when it is raining, or when there is fog on the highway.

Railroad crossings (H.2320, Rep. Rudnick). The Department of Highways and Public Transportation would be required to put white lines across the lanes approaching railroad crossings. In addition, for crossings within a half mile of a church or school, the railroad company would have to place and maintain flashing red lights. The placement of the lights (beside the road, above it, or so forth) would be determined by the Highway Department.

Law and Justice

Telephone taps in hostage situations (H.2249, Rep. Waldrop). In a situation involving hostages or terrorist activities, police officers could monitor telephone calls and conversations for up to twenty four hours without a court order.

Blackmail (H.2251, Rep. Waldrop). The definition of blackmail would be broadened to include threats or allegations not only against an individual, but against members of the immediate family--spouse, children, parents, etc.

Bombs and the threat of bombs (H.2259, Rep. Wilkins). The placing of a device or bomb to terrorize, intimidate or harass would become a specific crime if this bill is passed. Placing an actual explosive device could be punished by a fine of up to $5,000, five years in prison, or both. Placing what seems to be a bomb could bring a $2,000 fine, two years, or both.

Separation of prisoners (H.2260, Rep. Day). Correctional facilities would be required to separate prisoners according to certain categories. Male prisoners would be kept separate from female prisoners; violent offenders would be apart from non-violent offenders.

Electronic surveillance of probationers (H.2290, Rep. E.B. McLeod). At present the law forbids requiring electronic surveillance of a person as a condition for his or her probation. This measure would delete that, thus allowing electronic surveillance.

Gambling machines (H.2294, Rep. M.D. Burriss). This measure would increase the penalties for operating coin-run gambling machines. Presently the penalty is a year in prison or $500. The new penalties would be:

First offense: one year, a fine of $2,500 to $4,500;

Second offense: one year, a fine of $5,000 to $9,500;

Third and subsequent offenses: at least one year, a fine of at least $10,000.

Possession of alcohol by minors (H.2296, Rep. Rudnick). The penalties for possession of alcohol by minors would be stiffened. The fine would be increased from the present range of $50 to $100 to a range of $100 to $200.

Reckless endangerment (H.2298, Rep. Rudnick). This bill would create the offense of "reckless endangerment" and provide appropriate penalties. The offense would consist of actions which create "a substantial risk of serious injury or death to another person." The punishment upon conviction would be a fine of $5,000, a term of five years, or both.

Impersonating a law enforcement officer (H.2322, Rep. Rudnick). Persons who are found guilty of impersonating a law enforcement officer would be sentenced to five years in prison, with no possible suspension, no chance of parole. This penalty would be in addition to any other sentence the person might receive.

Reporting juvenile crimes (H.2329, Rep. Huff). Serious crimes committed by juveniles (murder, assault, arson, etc.) would have to be reported on a regular basis to SLED. Evidence of prior juvenile crimes could be considered in the sentencing phase of a trial if the solicitor petitions the Family Court for their use prior to the trial.

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Insurance agents (H.2215, Rep. J. Bradley). Property and casualty insurance companies would be required to keep at least one agent in each Congressional District of the state. The agent would have to be full-time. Companies would have to notify the Insurance Commission of the name and address of their agents; if they failed to do so, they could face losing their authorization to do business in this state.

Acupuncture regulations (H.2218, Rep. Lockemy). The State Board of Medical Examiners would be authorized to promulgate regulations for the practice of acupuncture.

Subdivisions and highways (H.2236, Rep. Aydlette). Developers who are proposing subdivisions having twenty-five or more residential units would first have to apply for a permit from the Department of Highways and Public Transportation. The Department would have to determine if the additional traffic would create a safety hazard, cause undue damage to existing roads and structures, or unduly increase maintenance expenses. If none of these problems would be caused, then a permit could be granted.

Workers' Compensation and law enforcement officers (H.2248, Rep. Waldrop). At present, in Workers' Compensation cases, fire fighters who have instances of heart disease or respiratory disease are considered to have contracted those conditions as part of their work-related duties (unless evidence to the contrary is presented). This bill would extend that to cover law enforcement officers.

Insurance premium rates (H.2306, Rep. Rudnick). Automobile insurance premiums would have to be set using the driving record of the applicant for the previous two years, and also the features of the owner's automobile which would protect the occupants or make the car difficult to damage.

Lights, camera, action! (H.2314, Rep. Rudnick.) This bill would create the South Carolina FIlm and Motion Picture Solicitation Commission, to "promote the making of films and motion pictures in South Carolina."

There would be seven members appointed by the Governor. Activities would be coordinated with other state agencies, including the State Development Board and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. The Commission could seek funds from federal and private sources. It could also employ an executive director. An annual report would have to be made to the General Assembly.

Termination of utility service (H.2318, Rep. Rudnick). If a utility wishes to terminate service to a customer while it has increased its rates under bond, then a certified letter must be sent to the customer at least ten days before service is cut off.

Subdivisions and surface water (H.2321, Rep. Rudnick). For subdivisions with five lots or more, the developer would have to have an independent consulting engineer come in a devise a plan to deal with removal of surface water accumulation--without damaging any adjoining property. One method proposed by the engineer would have to be approved by the county or municipality and installed by the developer. Failure to comply: $15,000 or one year in prison or both.

Official State Symbols - Slightly Unusual Division

Some state symbols are widespread: trees, stones, flowers, birds. Others have particular relevance to the individual state--South Carolina's Boykin Spaniel, for example, a breed which originated here. To outsiders, however, our choice of the Boykin might be puzzling, just as we might wonder (at first) at some of the official state symbols selected by other legislatures.

But on second thought, it makes perfect sense that the Alaska State Sport is dog mushing, or that Maryland's aristocratic pretensions led it to choose jousting. It was probably inevitable that Texas selected chili as its official State Dish, just as New Mexico took chili and frijoles as its State Vegetables.

State grasses are popular in the west: Western wheatgrass is claimed by both North and South Dakota, while Montana has the Bluebunch wheatgrass, Nevada the Indian rice grass, and Texas the Sideoats grama. Minnesota is alone, however, in selecting an official State Mushroom (the Morel) from the vegetable kingdom.

Louisiana's official Crustacean the crawfish makes sense--where would Cajun cooking be without it? But what did the Spotted Newt ever do to be named New Hampshire's State Amphibian?

Farm Income: Study Shows Drop in S.C is Severe

Background

Members of the South Carolina House hardly need to be reminded that our state's farmers have been experiencing difficult times in recent years. The drought of last spring and summer was but the latest blow to fall on a sector that is vital both to our economic and our social ways of life. Now there is more information showing how badly farm income has eroded in South Carolina.

The latest issue of *State Policy Reports,* published by State Policy Research, Inc., surveys the changes in farm income for selected states over a seven-year period. The bad news: South Carolina farmers were the third hardest hit in the nation.

The long view

Farm prices can vary greatly from year to year. Any number of reasons can account for these changes: weather conditions, market gluts or shortages, problems in transportation or related industries, foreign trade complications--and of course, government actions on the state and federal level.

To get a better idea of what's happening then, it's best to look at several years of farm income. In the January 16 issue of *State Policy Reports,* the change in farm income was calculated for the years 1978-1985. In addition, only states with significant farm economies were counted.

National farm income up--but some states suffer

Overall the nation's farmers saw an increase in their income by 21% during this time. Twenty-four states saw their farm income rise during the period, while fourteen states had a decline, and two states reported no change. As seen in the chart on the next page, the changes could be phenomenal: up 106% in Texas; up 138% in Nebraska; up an almost unbelievable 298% in Colorado (what do they grow out there, anyway?)

The changes could be devastating when they went the other direction: down 22% in Arkansas, down 31% in South Carolina, down 60% in Louisiana. And the hardest hit of all: Montana. There, farm income of $211 million in 1978 had changed to farm losses of $107 million in 1984, $365 million in 1985.

As *State Policy Report* notes, this bad news is only part of the negative economic impact. "For every job in farming, there is nearly one job in the industries that supply fertilizer, seeds, and farm equipment. There are six times as many jobs in storing, processing, distributing, and retailing farm products as in farming."

It's easy to see then, that the decline in farm income will have a substantial ripple effect throughout a state's economy. Not so easy to determine, perhaps, is what government can do about this situation.

Change in Farm Income, 1978-1985

State	Percent Change	State	Percent Change	State	Percent Change
Montana	Loss	Washington	0	Florida	52
Louisiana	-60	Arizona	0	Oregon	66
SOUTH CAROLINA	-31	Illinois	13	Pennsylvania	73
Indiana	-29	Alabama	15	Georgia	89
Arkansas	-22	New York	20	Texas	106
Missouri	-18	US Average	21	Oklahoma	116
Iowa	-16	Ohio	21	Delaware	117
New Mexico	-15	Maryland	22	New Jersey	127
Minnesota	-13	South Dakota	26	Kansas	129
Virginia	-9	California	35	Nebraska	138
Mississippi	-6	Idaho	37	Hawaii	203
North Carolina	-5	Kentucky	39	Colorado	298
Wisconsin	-5	Michigan	43		
North Dakota	-5	Tennessee	46		

Black History Month

Introduction

February is Black History Month, and each year the *Legislative Update* presents a research report to mark the occasion. In these reports we present brief biographies of notable South Carolina blacks who have made significant contributions. In this research report we focus on three native South Carolinians who made their marks in the diverse fields of politics, science and music.

Robert Smalls--From slave to Congressman

One of the best known figures in South Carolina history is that of Robert Smalls, a native of Beaufort whose career during and after the Civil War ensured his place in the annals of our state.

Robert Smalls was born on April 5, 1839. He received an education that was better than that provided most slaves of the time, for his owner, John McKee, provided tutors for him. Smalls also learned practical arts from his father, including sail-making and sailing. He would later put all that he learned to excellent use.

In 1851 Smalls moved from Beaufort to Charleston--or rather, his master moved and the slaves had no choice to accompany him. Although no records specifically prove the fact, it seems likely (from the evidence of his later actions) that even at this date Robert Smalls was considering ways in which to free himself, and others.

In 1856 Smalls married his first wife, Hannah. They had two children. Hannah Smalls died in 1883. In 1890 Smalls married his second wife, Annie Wigg.

After South Carolina's secession (December 20, 1860) other southern states left the Union, and the bombardment of Fort Sumter in April, 1861 precipitated the conflict between the Union and the new Confederacy. During this war, Robert Smalls, like many blacks, was pressed into service for the South. One of the interesting, but perhaps little noted, aspects of the War Between the States was the essential part placed by blacks in supporting the South's war efforts. In addition to their peacetime occupations of agriculture,

manufacturing and other duties, blacks worked on fortifications, prepared munitions, and performed other important logistical services for the Confederates. In particular, such activities allowed the South to employ more of its white, male population in the ranks of its armies. (Even then, towards the end of the conflict, President Jefferson Davis and other Confederate leaders were ready to implement a plan to recruit black troops for the southern war effort. The reward for the black soldiers would be their freedom!)

Ironically, it was while performing such duties that Robert Smalls saw, and seized, his chance for freedom. Because of his background in sailing, Smalls had been placed on a transport steamer, the *Planter,* which carried troops and supplies to the various Confederate installations about the Charleston area.

At the time the Union fleet was attempting a double action against Charleston. Working from its base in Port Royal Sound (the Beaufort area had been seized by amphibious assault in November, 1861) the Federal navy was trying to keep a tight blockade on the port, and reduce Fort Sumter through naval bombardment. The blockade lines did not keep out all the fast-sailing supply ships, and Fort Sumter never fell. However, the Union forces were found all about Charleston: the navy on the seas, land forces stationed on islands from Hilton Head north.

The Captain of the Planter

It was this presence of the Union forces that inspired Robert Small's plan. He was well-versed in sailing, and quite knowledgeable of the waters around Charleston, and as a crew member of the *Planter* he had access to a vessel. On May 13, 1862, after careful planning, he seized his chance--by seizing the *Planter,* and sailing the ship into the Union lines. Along with him on his dash to freedom he took his wife, their two children, and twelve others, slaves no more.

Smalls was made a pilot in the United States Navy, and continued to serve on board the *Planter.* Now the ship continued its role as a transport vessel, but for the Union, rather than the Confederacy. On December 1, 1863, the *Planter* came under attack from Confederate forces. Its captain deserted the ship under fire. Into this desperate situation Robert Smalls stepped in, taking over command of the vessel and maneuvering it safely back into friendly territory. For this cool and prompt display of courage and ability, Smalls was given complete command of the *Planter.* It was a post which he held for the rest of the war. In fact, he held it until September, 1866, when the ship was decommissioned from the United States Navy.

A Political career, an enduring legacy

During the Reconstruction period a number of former slaves found new careers in politics, and Robert Smalls was one. According to one account he was "good-humored, intelligent, fluent, and self-possessed," traits well suited for a successful politician. And successful he was. From 1868 to 1870 he served in the South Carolina House of Representatives. In 1870 he was elected to the state Senate, and held that seat for four years, leaving it in 1875 to take his place as a member of the United States of House of Representatives.

Smalls served in the U.S. House from 1875 until 1887 (with the exception of one term, in 1880-81). This length of service made Smalls the second-longest serving black Representative of the group elected during the post-war period.

Following his tenure in Washington, Robert Smalls returned to Beaufort, and was appointed as Collector of the Port, a position he assumed in 1889. He would hold this title for almost the rest of his life, giving it up in 1913. The one gap in his service was during the second term of President Grover Cleveland. Smalls, a Republican, was not re-appointed by the Democratic President.

Small's political career was not without turmoil. In 1877 he was convicted on the charge of taking a bribe while a state senator. The case was appealed, but before a decision was reached, Governor Simpson granted a full pardon.

Turmoil of another kind came in 1895, when Robert Smalls was one of only six black delegates to the state constitutional convention. By this time the political power of the black population had been largely curtailed through a series of measures, and along with many blacks, Robert Smalls tried desperately to hold some of the gains made so painfully. He spoke at the convention: "Before that body he made a vain but gallant attempt to prevent the practical disfranchisement of his race."

For the last twenty years of his life Smalls lived in his hometown of Beaufort, serving as Collector of the Port and respected elder statesman of the black movement. He died on February 22, 1915. On his monument in Beaufort are these words from his writings:

My race needs no special defense, for the past
history of them in this country proves them
to be equal of any people anywhere.
All they need is an equal chance in the battle of life.

Ernest Everett Just, "Black Apollo of Science"

Sometimes the achievement of black South Carolinians, as inspiring as they are, carry with them something of sadness and poignancy. Such is the case of Ernest Everett Just, one of the premier marine biologists of the first half of the Twentieth Century.

Just was born in Charleston in 1883. His mother, a remarkable woman in her own right, was active in educational and social efforts among the black community in the Lowcountry. After the death of her husband, she moved the family to James Island and helped found a self-sufficient black township which was named Maryville in her honor.

When Ernest Just was only thirteen years old, he was admitted to South Carolina State in Orangeburg. Within three years he had completed all the courses required to receive a Licentiate of Instruction, which meant that he could become a teacher.

However, Just was only fifteen years old, and both he and his mother decided that further schooling was appropriate. The young man had already shown outstanding academic aptitude, and he was awarded a scholarship to attend Kimball Union Academy in Vermont.

Away from home

Just was at Kimball for two years without returning home to the small town of Maryville, on James Island, where his mother had moved from Charleston. Just's biographer tells what happened the spring of his second year in Vermont:

> His mother was on his mind. There was nothing specific to worry about, but no letters had come from her for some time. Then one morning--so the story goes--while he was washing dishes and helping prepare breakfast in the Kimball kitchen, he had a sudden premonition that something was wrong at home. He knew not what, only that he had to get there. He threw off his apron and, without explanation to anyone, headed for Maryville. His brother Hunter had come to New York the previous year and was working as a chef. Ernest picked him up on the way. They arrived home early the next evening. A neighbor greeted them with the news that Mary had been buried no more than an hour or two earlier.
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> [Kenneth R. Manning, *Black Apollo of Science: The Life of Ernest Everett Just*. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983.]

The beginning of exile

Ernest Just would see little of his home state in the years ahead, although he continued to mention it often in his conversations and letters. After Kimball, he was admitted to Dartmouth College.

A brilliant student at Dartmouth, he received his BA in 1907, graduating *magna cum laude*. He was also selected to be a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor fraternity. When it came time to graduate, Just was awarded practically every honor and award that Dartmouth offered its students.

In 1916 Just received a doctorate in zoology and physiology from the University of Chicago. He had already started work at Howard University, so most of his course work was done during the summers or away from the University—much of Just's work consisted of original experiments on various marine organisms.

An outstanding scientific career

From 1907 on Just served on the faculty of Howard University. During the summers he was associated with the famed Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, in Massachusetts. Today, as in earlier years, Woods Hole is known throughout the world for being in the forefront of sealife studies. This area of study was the one Just chose for his speciality. He become widely known for his experiments and studies on the fertilization of marine eggs—until then a relatively obscure and unknown topic.

Between 1912 and 1937 Just published more than fifty scientific papers on this subject. Many of these were the results of painstaking, and often difficult experiments or observations. Because of these papers his work became widely known in the scientific community, and his reputation grew.

The Woods Hole Lab is governed by a ruling board, composed of certain of the scientists who work at the center. Just—who was with Woods Hole for twenty years—was chosen to be a member of this ruling board, another indication of the considerable esteem in which he was held by his fellow professionals. Another proof (if any were needed) was his service as Vice President of the American Zoological Society, the professional organization for the scientists in his chosen field.

International acclaim

Starting in 1911 Just had begun to publish numerous scientific papers which attracted the attention of his peers throughout the world. His accomplishments were recognized widely: in 1913 he was given the Spingarn Award by the NAACP for his contributions to

science. In 1920 he became the first black scientist to receive substantial funds from foundations such as the National Research Council, or the Carnegie Fund. In 1922 Just received an honorary doctorate from his old alma mater, South Carolina State. In 1927 he was listed as one of the top scientists in the United States in the publication *American Men of Scientists*. He was the first black scientist to be included in the book.

Still, Just had to suffer racial slights and slurs, even within the scientific community. The situation in society in general was even worse during the early 1920's. This was one reason that Just welcomed the opportunity to travel and work in Europe.

He first sailed abroad in 1929 and was captivated by the places and people he met. During the 1930's Just was invited to undertake research in major European centers of biological and marine biological studies: Berlin, Paris, Naples. Just felt that at last he was accepted as a man and a scientist, without being pre-judged because of his race. By 1938 he had spent as much time as he could in Europe, and was planning to settle in France, and become a French citizen. It was not a decision which he made lightly, and becoming a permanent exile from America caused him considerable sorrow.

But he was not destined to live abroad. The German invasion of France in 1940 shut the French universities and research facilities. Foreigners were in a dangerous situation under the Nazi rule, especially black Americans. Just returned to the United States and to his position on the faculty at Howard.

He did not have long to live. In 1941 he was diagnosed as having cancer of the pancreas. He died soon after in Washington, D.C.

Just's career was brilliant, but marked by double sadness: he had to struggle just to be accepted for his work, outstanding as it was, and he came to feel more comfortable far from his home.

Josh White: Blues and Gospel

Joshua Daniel White, known to millions of music lovers as Josh White, was born in Greenville, South Carolina, on February 11. There is some dispute over the year of his birth: some sources say it was 1908, others claim it was seven years later, in 1915.

White's father was Dennis White, a Greenville minister. Josh sang in the church choir, along with his mother and seven brothers and sisters. Throughout his life, gospel music would remain an important part of his music, and he would become almost as well known for his gospel productions as for his blues records.

An early start in music

Josh was soon attracted to the life of a professional musician. By 1922 he was already working with a local street singer, Blind John Henry Arnold, acting as his guide, helping to take up collections, learning his songs. At this time Josh White would have been no older than fourteen, and perhaps as young as seven. (This makes it seem more likely that he was born in 1908, instead of 1915.)

Early in his high school years, Josh White dropped out to work full time with the street singers. Among the names which have survived in the books telling their history: Blind John Henry Arnold, Blind Joe Taggart, Blind Blake, Willie Walker, Joe Walker, and Columbus Williams. It was during this period that, according to some, White is supposed to have travelled and worked in North Carolina with the legendary Blind Lemon Jefferson.

White soon appeared on records, performing with Blind Joe Taggart, and later with the Carver Boys. In 1929, however, he returned to Greenville to complete Stirling High School. Soon after, he moved to New York City.

Gospel, blues, and success

Josh White, like many other recording artists of the period, used a variety of pseudonyms. When he was singing gospel, he was known as the Singing Christian. In the studio to lay down some blues tracks, he used the name of Pinewood Tom, and sometimes Tippy Barton. It was as Josh White, however, that he made himself known.

By 1932 he was appearing as a regular on the radio show "Harlem Fantasy," broadcast by NBC. He also was heard on a number of other radio programs, sometimes as a special guest, sometimes as a regular member of the cast. His excellent singing voice was matched by his stage presence and acting ability, and in 1940 he appeared with Paul Robeson in the production *John Henry,* winning excellent reviews.

It was during the early 1940's that White recorded with his own group, The Carolinians, on the Columbia label. He also worked with another world-famous bluesman, Leadbelly, in Greenwich Village in New York City.

White's talent and ability were recognized in Washington, as well as New York. During the 1940's he frequently entertained for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the White House, and the Library of Congress, recognizing the importance of his material and his stature as an artist, had him record for their collection of American folk music.

The blues take hold

One of the most important, and enduring, influences Josh White had on modern American music was exposing entirely new audiences to that particular form known as the blues. When many southern blacks had migrated north--to Chicago, Detroit, New York--they took with them a rich musical heritage that was almost totally unknown to much of the white population.

Singers such as Leadbelly and Josh White had performed the blues for years, and in the early 1940's they began to receive wider acclaim among white listeners. According to some historians of American popular music, the year 1943 marks a dramatic turning point in our culture: that was the year that Josh White opened in a New York nightclub called the Cafe Society Downtown, and became a sensational hit singing the blues. Since then, American music has never lost the vital energy the blues has given it.

In 1949 White received an honorary Doctorate of Folk Anthology from Fisk University. During the 1950's he continued on the road, touring more widely than ever before, received by increasingly appreciative audiences. By the time he died, on September 5, 1969, he could see clearly the vast changes he had helped make in American music.

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